

Wild, Wild West featuring the Black Hills and Badlands September 8-14, 2024

### **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ 12 Meals: 6 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners, 1 Dinner Show
- Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- Badlands National Park
- ❖ Wall Drug
- Custer State Park
- Crazy Horse Memorial
- ❖ 1880's Train Ride
- Free time in Deadwood, SD
- ❖ Mt. Rushmore lighting ceremony
- **❖** Mammoth Site
- Scottsbluff National Monument
- Golden Spike Tower
- Omaha City Tour, includes Pioneer Courage Park

**Your Tour Includes:** Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, 6 Nights' Accommodations, Full Time Tour Director, Luggage Handling for One Suitcase Not to Exceed 50 lbs., Taxes and Gratuities on Included Accommodations, Attractions, Meals, and Step on Guides

**Not Included:** Travel Protection Plan, Gratuities to Tour Director and Motorcoach Driver, Any Items of a Personal Nature

#### Day #1 Sunday, September 8, 2024

Our Wild West journey begins as we travel west across Iowa, South Dakota and on to the "Great Plains". This seven-day adventure will offer an amazing variety of attractions such as Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Wall Drug and Badlands National Park. Sit back, relax and get to know your traveling companions as we make our way to our first overnight stop in Mitchell, South Dakota. This evening dinner is included. (D)

#### Day #2 Monday, September 9, 2024

We continue our westward journey this morning as we leave behind farmlands and enter ranch country, but not before viewing the murals of the Corn Palace. These murals are made out of 12 different colors of corn and framed in native grain and grasses. A morning stop will be made at the Missouri River overlook in Chamberlain, South Dakota where you find the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. This center commemorates the 1803-1806 expedition as they voyaged through South Dakota. (Change time to Mountain Time). After lunch, a stop will be made at the Prairie Homestead. Built in 1909 this home is one of the last remaining original sod homes intact today. We continue to Badlands National Park where we will drive the Loop Trail with picture stops along the way. The Loop ends at Wall Drug where we take our afternoon break before heading into Rapid City for a three-night stay. This evening, we have included dinner at one of the local restaurants. (BD)



### Day #3 Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Today is a full one as we begin with an included breakfast. Our first stop will be a visit to Main Street Square/City of Presidents, Rapid City, South Dakota. Here you are greeted with life size bronze statues of our nation's past presidents. Our journey continues with a beautiful drive through Custer State Park where you are sure to encounter "begging Burrows" as well as the largest herd of publicly owned wild buffalo. Keep your eyes open for other wildlife, too. Next is a visit to Crazy Horse Memorial with an included lunch. We will learn how and why this tremendous memorial is being built. We depart for Hill City in time to ride the 1880's vintage steam train to Keystone. This historical train ride is narrated and fun for all ages. Free time will be given to shop and enjoy dinner on your own before we make or way to Mount Rushmore for the awesome lighting ceremony. (BL)

# Day #4 Wednesday, September 11, 2024

This morning after an included breakfast we are off to the rich and colorful gold camp of Deadwood, South Dakota. Here we travel down cobblestone streets. We will learn about the Ft. Laramie Treaty of 1868. Did you know that Custers Expedition to the Black Hills started the Gold Rush of 1874? Our morning ends with a visit to Tatanka, the story of the Bison. Time to explore Deadwood on your own. Mid-afternoon finds us departing Deadwood. We will visit Chapel in the Hills, an authentic Stave Kirke Church. We will end our day at the Fort Hays Chuckwagon Supper and Show. (BDS)

# Day #5 Thursday, September 12, 2024

An included breakfast begins our day. We then travel south to visit a truly remarkable National Natural Landmark, The Mammoth Site. This unique museum is all about a "sink hole" where over 100 Mammoths have been discovered and left where they were found. We reboard our motorcoach and make our way to Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Prior to checking into our hotel, we

will visit the Scottsbluff National Monument. This monument rises over 800 feet above the plains at its highest point. After checking into our hotel dinner is served. (BD)

### Day # 6 Friday, September 13, 2024

After included breakfast, off we go. En route to Omaha we will stop at the Golden Spike Tower and Visitor Center in North Platte, Nebraska. View the interpretive displays as they tell the story of the history of Union Pacific, Bailey Yard and North Platte. Ride the elevator to the top of the tower to view the world's largest rail yard. This evening, we are treated to a farewell dinner. The balance of your evening is free. (BD)

# Day # 7 Saturday, September 14, 2024

A final breakfast starts your day, then pack your suitcases and board your deluxe motorcoach for the journey home. Before leaving Omaha, we have arranged for a city tour to include Pioneer Courage Park. Here you will see a dramatic statue of a cowboy, a symbol of the American West. We now leave the Wild West behind returning to our original departure point late this afternoon. (B)